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IN APRIL, HEARING THE NEWS

it's before being
 a hostage to
 loss and dying
 numbs and each
 word is charged
 and when my mother
 tells me I'm so
 pretty as I see
 her sit down
 in Sears looking
 lost then looks
 up at me and
 waves as she does
 from the other
 twin bed when I
 can't tell since
 she often sleeps
 with her eyes
 open if she's
 sleeping and I
 wasn't drained
 from staying 11
 weeks in a house
 that's a cage is
 full of cages as
 my sister tries to
 jail everything
 that should breathe
 before the night
 mare of living
 in a house in
 enemy territory
 was the price
 for having
 her still

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